

Guide to Assembly Roles, Southwest California Synod of the ELCA

Updated March 31, 2023

The information below is intended to guide you to the role an individual may serve for the synod assembly. Please note that the constitution of each synod of the ELCA determines assembly roles.

LEGEND		
Role	Privileges	
	Voice?	Vote?
Voting Member	Y	Y
Voice without Vote	Y	N
Visitor	N	N

If you are a rostered leader and... <i>(Minister of Word and Sacrament/Pastor or Minister of Word and Service/Deacon)</i>	Role:	Notes
Actively serving a congregation	Voting Member	
Interim under call	Voting Member	
Interim not under call, serving a congregation under synod contract	Voting Member	
Serving a specialized ministry call (including the bishop and Assistants to the Bishop)	Voting Member	
Clergy rostered in a denomination with a relationship of full communion with the ELCA who is serving a congregation under call or synod contract	Voting Member	S7.27.
Retired, Disabled, or On Leave from Call and serving as an elected member of Synod Council	Voting Member	S7.28.
Retired, Disabled, or On Leave from Call registering before S7.26 & S7.27 are invoked	Voting Member	S7.22. <i>May not be elected by congregation.*</i>
Retired, Disabled, or On Leave from Call registering after S7.26 & S7.27 are invoked	Voice without Vote	S7.22. <i>May not be elected by congregation.*</i>

**Retired rostered leaders cannot be elected to serve as a voting member by their congregation because voting members elected by congregations are required to be laypeople. (S7.26 & S7.27)*

If you are a layperson and... <i>(Layperson: a person who is not a Pastor or Deacon of the ELCA)</i>	Role:	Notes
A member of your congregation or a SAWC and elected to be a voting member (including additional Youth and Young Adult members as allowed by S7.21.A12.)	Voting Member	S7.26.A21.
Not elected as a voting member for your congregation (and not meeting any criteria below)	Visitor	
An elected member of Synod Council (members-at-large, conference representatives, youth representative) including officers of this synod (vice-president, secretary, treasurer)	Voting Member	S7.28.
A member of the Assembly Planning Team and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
A pastoral intern and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
A representative from a SWCA/ELCA ministry team, agency, or partner and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Voice without Vote	S7.23 <i>Rules of Procedure</i>
A TEEM candidate serving a congregation under synod contract	Voting Member	S7.22.A21

A TEEM candidate not serving a congregation under synod contract and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
The elected Chairperson of a synod conference and not an elected member of council or elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Voice without Vote	<i>S12.13.B93</i>
A non-elected member of or representative to Synod Council and not elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Visitor	
Office of the Bishop staff member not elected by your congregation to be a voting member	Voice without Vote	<i>S7.23 Rules of Procedure</i>

Additionally ...	Reference
The presiding bishop of the ELCA and other official representatives of the churchwide organization designated by the presiding bishop shall have voice without vote .	<i>†S7.23</i>

